



CEOE Empresas
Españolas

STRENGTHENING, SPEEDING UP, BOOSTING.

**CEOE'S PROPOSALS FOR THE 2024-
2029 EUROPEAN INSTITUTIONAL CYCLE:
A PUBLIC-PRIVATE COMMITMENT TO FOSTER EU
COMPETITIVENESS**

APRIL 2024

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In a context of escalating **geostrategic rivalry and strong international competition**, boosting European competitiveness is essential for a stronger EU. With the aim of contributing to the consolidation of European competitiveness and placing it at the heart of EU policies during the 2024-2029 European institutional cycle, CEOE presents its proposals for the next five years around **nine main axes**:

1. A REGULATORY FRAMEWORK FOR COMPETITIVENESS

- Focusing on the **proper implementation** of the prolific legislation adopted in the last cycle, ensuring transparency and legal certainty, avoiding **gold-plating** and aiming to make the **25% reporting burden reduction** target a reality.
- Strengthening the role of the European Commission with regard to ensuring compliance with European legislation by launching **infringement procedures** when needed, making them more agile and transparent, whilst also taking into account the role of **market surveillance** for the proper functioning of the Single Market.
- Enhancing the **quality of impact assessments** and transparency in the drafting of **delegated acts**, as well as ensuring the proper application of the **competitiveness check**, the **SME Test** and the **one-in-one-out principle**.

2. COMPLETING THE SINGLE MARKET, A CENTRAL PRIORITY

- Placing the Single Market at the heart of European integration, taking steps towards **removing persistent barriers to the four freedoms** and ensuring **cross-border transport** operations.

- Maximising the potential of **public procurement** as a means of achieving European objectives and ensuring that public procurement legislation prevents a race to the bottom in prices.
- Protecting the European **standardisation** model to ensure market-relevant European legislation that is aligned with international standards.
- Fostering **complementarity and consistency between the industrial and competition policy** and ensuring that the State aid control framework guarantees the efficiency of public support and a level playing field in the EU, and promoting instruments designed with a **European perspective**.

3. AN ECONOMIC AND FISCAL ENVIRONMENT TO FOSTER INVESTMENT

- Firmly committing to completing the **Banking Union** and advancing in the deepening of the **Capital Markets Union**, thereby creating a stable and predictable environment and ensuring the correct implementation of the new **EU economic governance** framework.
- Designing a new **Multiannual Financial Framework**, including new **own resources** to enable the necessary investments, and ensuring the **efficient implementation** of the **NextGenerationEU funds**.
- In a context of fiscal consolidation, taking advantage of **catalytic European instruments and resources** to **close the investment gap** with other regions, and **generating incentives** across administrations.

4. PUTTING COMPETITIVENESS AT THE HEART OF THE GREEN TRANSITION

- Developing policies aimed at **preserving and strengthening European industry, speeding up industrial permitting** and enhancing supply chains resilience by diversifying sources of energy, raw materials and intermediate goods and increasing European capacities.
- Ensuring **energy security and supply** in the EU, addressing the cost differential between the EU and its main competitors and encouraging investment in clean energy.
- Promoting a new **sustainable and multimodal mobility model** based on the principle of technology neutrality and improving market conditions for **circular material** flows.

Adopting a comprehensive and consistent approach in **EU water policies** and ensuring cost-effective **biodiversity conservation** measures in balance with social and economic interests.

5. CONSOLIDATING THE DIGITALISATION OF THE ECONOMY

- Consolidating the **Digital Single Market** to enable European businesses to leverage its full potential and focusing on the implementation of the new **regulatory framework in the digital field**.
- Optimising the **impact of financial resources**, both public and private, allocated for the digital transition.
- Ensuring **data interoperability** and reuse, advocating for the development of data spaces and establishing the EU as the preferred destination for investment and development of AI technology.
- Strengthening **cybersecurity** capacities across the public and private domains, implementing and developing the legislation adopted in the past legislative term.

6. BOOSTING INNOVATION AS THE BACKBONE OF COMPETITIVENESS

- Fostering legislation that promotes **technological neutrality** and pragmatism and ensuring the application of the innovation principle when drafting new rules.
- Introducing additional **incentives** for investment in innovative business models that foster sustainable growth and facilitate business participation, especially for SMEs, in **European R&D programmes**.
- Promoting and facilitating the use of **sandboxes and pilot projects**.

7. AN EU BASED ON STRONG SOCIAL DIALOGUE FOSTERING JOB CREATION

- **Promoting and reinforcing the role of social dialogue** at European and national levels as a tool for finding flexible solutions adapted to the reality of labour markets.
- **Facilitating labour mobility** between Member States by improving the recognition of qualifications and establishing policies for orderly, safe and regular migration to **attract talent from third countries**.

- Developing **career guidance** systems to support lifelong learning processes, enhancing training in skills related to the twin transition and increasing the attractiveness of **STEM disciplines**.

8. A STRENGTHENED FOREIGN POLICY AND AN OPEN TRADE AND INVESTMENT POLICY

- Strengthening **EU security** across all sectors, including the **European defence industry development**, and, regarding **economic security measures**, ensuring a balance between promoting and seeking international partners.
- Ensuring robust EU support for **multilateralism** as the best approach to address global challenges, accelerating the ratification of already negotiated **bilateral trade agreements**, pursuing ongoing negotiations and extending the existing network of agreements to new countries.
- Further developing the **Global Gateway** initiative, ensuring that its financial instruments are **more accessible to businesses**.
- Fostering **trade relations with key partners** such as the US, China, Latin America and the Caribbean, and with the **EU Neighbourhood countries**.
- Looking ahead to future **enlargement**, in addition to providing assistance to candidate countries, ensuring the necessary EU governance reforms while strengthening and preparing the Single Market.

9. A STRATEGIC SPAIN WITHIN AN AGILE INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK

- Elevating the **challenges and strengths of the Spanish economy** to the forefront of the European agenda, combining this with the necessary **institutional space**, and maintaining a **strong position** for Spain in **negotiations at the Council**.
- Ensuring that the **structure of the upcoming European Commission** responds to current challenges, by promoting competitiveness and the Single Market matters.
- Enhancing **collaboration among Spanish political decision-makers, social partners and business representatives** at the European level, reinforcing the defence of the country's collective interests.



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